

OUR LADY OF HOPE PASTORAL COUNCIL minutes for January 13, 2021

Present: Fr. Paul Sullivan, SJ, Dermot Bostock, Elizabeth Manning, Mary Cafazzo, Kathy Eliscu, Bill Burke, Estelle Lavoie, Bill Slavick, Mary Ellen White

- 1) **Opening Prayer & Spiritual reading** - led by Fr. Paul. Dermott read the gospel of Mark 1:29-39. Members shared their reflections of the Gospel reading.

- 2) **Minutes** - December minutes - OK

- 3) **Update on the Parish Planning and Human Capital Campaign** – A report was given by the Subcommittee to the PC Members. Looked at the options that are available. Once agreed on, go to the Bishop to see if one of these options will be accepted by the Bishop or will the Bishop have an alternate option.

Members also shared some of their thoughts on where we are now during this trying time of COVID 19. How to build the Parish up in numbers. How to maintain the financial stability during this trying time. Trying to keep optimistic. Fr. Paul thought there seemed to be some optimism from the parishioners who responded to the survey. There were 135 that came back and about 15 – 20 still to come back. Once the survey deadline has ended, there will be a small group that will review the results. Once these results have been compiled, this information will need to be presented to the Parishioners correctly. Initial results indicate that maybe a Parish Nurse's Ministry could be started. Kathy will check this out. Elizabeth Manning was THANKED for all her hard work with orchestrating this survey project.

Some other thoughts/questions that were put out were:

How can the Church be more inviting to outsiders?

Can a Book Group be started?

What type of programs would be helpful?

Sexuality is not just an issue for the younger generation, it applies to all.

We need to be actively inviting not just invite.

Schedule a Parish talk/zoom/hybrid event based on Fr. James Martin's book on building bridges between the church and the LGBTQ community.

Washington DC Events last week (White House insurrection.) Slight discussion by the PC Members. What do/can we do now?

Dermot will circulate Bill Slavick's attachment to the agenda that was submitted for this meeting but was not circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Fr. Paul gave a quick brief report of Events Committee Updates:

- 1) February – KC Knights will do a Valentine Drive Thru Dinner
- 2) There is discussion of a Lobster Roll Drive Thru Dinner in March
- 3) Talk of an Irish Soda Bread Sale
- 4) Tonya Heskett would like to start a Pen Pal Program
- 5) Fr. Paul is organizing a St. Patrick's Zoom Program (similar to the Christmas Party one)

Ashes – Due to COVID restrictions' on Ash Wednesday, Ashes will be sprinkled over people's heads rather than placed on people's foreheads.

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Paul.

Respectably submitted,
Linda McCormack, Parish Administrative Assistant